NOVA SCOTIA Government of Nova Scotia

Happy Birthday, Maritime Museum

Department of Education and Culture (to July 99)
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The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is turning 50. Tuesday, Dec. 8, marks five decades of the museum's work in preserving and sharing Nova Scotia's marine heritage.

Founded as the Maritime Museum in 1948, the facility has experienced many changes over the years and has developed quite a history of its own. From demolitions to fires to floods, stories from behind-the-scenes abound with elements of surprise, amusement and even astonishment.

"The museum has grown from a small collection of naval artifacts to a major museum attraction for Nova Scotians and visitors to the province," says David Flemming, former director of the Maritime Museum. "The development of the collection and the diversity of the exhibits provide an important insight into the rich maritime heritage of Canada's East Coast."

The stories behind this growth will be the focus of an illustrated talk by Mr. Flemming on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the museum's Small Craft gallery. Mr. Flemming will be offering an overview of the museum's history, providing an insider's view to experiences and events that have helped to make the museum the respected facility it is today.

Included in the museum's celebrations is the installation of a temporary exhibit entitled Two Score and Ten Years. This exhibit focuses on the Maritime Museum in its many guises over the years, illustrating challenges and accomplishments, including the acquisition and restoration of the museum's largest artifact, CSS Acadia. Two Score and Ten Years also introduces the public to the staff who work hard to preserve Nova Scotia's marine heritage.

"Preserving and communicating the knowledge and information that makes up our marine heritage is the primary focus of this museum," said Michael Murray, acting director of the Maritime Museum. "Residents of this province and beyond have entrusted their treasures to us so that we can share our heritage with others. The museum will work even harder over the next 50 years and beyond to ensure that all the stories and treasures are accessible to everyone."

The culminating event for the 50th birthday celebrations will be an open house and party Sunday, Dec. 13, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Events, entertainment and activities are planned for the whole family, with birthday cake to be served at 3 p.m.

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is at 1675 Lower Water St. Halifax.

NOTE: The following is intended for use by broadcast media.

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is turning 50.

Opened in 1948, the Halifax museum is celebrating five decades of preserving and sharing Nova Scotia's marine heritage.

Celebrations include the opening of an exhibit entitled "Two Score and Ten Years," which illustrates the challenges and accomplishments of the past 50 years.

An open house and birthday party will be held this Sunday (December 13th) from 1 p-m to 5 p-m at the museum on the Halifax waterfront.

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